[31st January 1929

Position of unpassed matriculate clerks in the Registration department.

* 1222 Q.—Mr. D. Narayana Raju : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that clerks of the Registration department who are unpassed matriculates but have been granted exemption are not allowed even to act as sub-registrars while S.S.L.C. clerks in a similar position who have not satisfied the conditions of the latest Government Order regarding minimum qualifications to public service are allowed to hold such posts, both acting and permanent?

A.—By the expression "unpassed matriculates" the hon. Member presumably means persons who appeared for the Matriculation Examination of the Madras University but failed to pass it. The cases to which he refers are presumably those of such men exempted only to hold the post of clerks. Where an exemption covers only a clerk's post, the exemptee cannot without a further special order act as sub-registrar.

2. What the hon. Member means by "in a similar position" is not clear. The situation is as follows:—

Before the issue of G.O. No. 965, Public, dated 16th November 1926, any man who held a completed Secondary School-Leaving Certificate was eligible for superior service in the Registration department and so fit for promotion to the rank of sub-registrar. Any man so qualified who was confirmed prior to the issue of G.O. No. 965, Public, dated 16th November 1926, is therefore unaffected by it and is fully eligible for promotion to sub-registrar. The same immunity is attached to men with the same qualification whose cases came under G.Os. No. 137, Public, dated 14th February 1927, and No. 675, Public, dated 29th July 1927; that is to say, though their qualifications do not satisfy the strict letter of the new conditions their service under the old rules with the old qualification was sufficient to justify their being considered normally recruited men.

3. The position is therefore that there is no comparison between the two sets of cases the hon. Member treats as parallel.

Mr. D. Narayana Raju:—"May I know whether the Government propose to place the 'old failed matriculates' and S.S.L.C. men in a similar condition on the same footing?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"I am not aware where they are differentiated. If specific instances are shown, I shall examine the question."

Alleged pressure of work in the Registration offices.

* 1223 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased (i) to place before the House the rules of Government and the Inspector-General of Registration as to office hours and work to be done on holidays and before and after office hours, and (ii) to state—

(*a*) whether the rules give scope for Registration office establishments being kept working and whether as a matter of fact most registration office